

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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1. (Currently Amended) A method of installing a network protocol component or service on a computer comprising:
  - automatically loading the network protocol component or service on the computer in response to a process-initiating event; and
  - automatically binding an existing network adapter to the network protocol component or service.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising automatically rebooting the computer following said automatically binding.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 including invoking a network operating system to perform loading of the network protocol component or service on the computer.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 including using a binding engine of the operating system to bind the existing network adapter to the network protocol component or service.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the process-initiating event includes selecting a shortcut to a shared network location from the computer.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the process-initiating event includes executing an operating system command line.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the process-initiating event is part of a software setup program execution.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the process-initiating event is part of a user login sequence to the computer.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the process-initiating event is part of a mass deployment of the new network protocol component or service.
10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
a network adapter; and  
a processor configured to load a network protocol component or service in the apparatus automatically in response to a process-initiating event and to bind the network adapter to the network protocol component or service automatically.
11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the processor is further configured to reboot the apparatus automatically after automatic binding.
12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising a network operating system, wherein the processor is further configured to invoke the network operating system to perform the automatic loading of the network protocol component or service.
13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the operating system comprises a binding engine that is utilized to bind the network adapter to the network protocol component or service.

14. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a computer-readable medium that stores computer-executable instructions for causing a computer system to:

automatically load a network protocol component or service on a computer in response to a process-initiation event; and

automatically bind an existing network adapter to the network protocol component or service.

15. (Original) The article of claim 14 further comprising computer-executable instructions on the computer-readable medium for causing the computer system to automatically reboot the computer after binding.

16. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 14 including instructions for causing a network operating system to be utilized to perform loading of the network protocol component or service on the computer.

17. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 16 including instructions for causing a binding engine of the network operating system to bind the existing network adapter to the network protocol component or service.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:

a computer including a network adapter;  
a network protocol component or service;  
a computer network that connects the computer to the network protocol component or service; and  
a processor;

wherein the processor is configured to automatically load the network protocol component or service on the computer in response to a process initiation event, and to automatically bind the network adapter to the network protocol component or service.

19. (Original) The computer system of claim 18 wherein the processor is further configured to automatically reboot the computer after binding.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 18 further comprising a network operating system that is utilized by the processor to load the network protocol component or service.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 20 wherein the operating system comprises a binding engine that binds the network adapter to the network protocol component or service.

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